
EPILOGUE

MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCES

Harvey Bacus was a missionary for many years in the Caribbean. "Down there," he says, "the small island mentality" is a proverbial expression for people with a limited perspective.

He tells of an acquaintance who was born and raised on Grand Cayman Island. Grand Cayman is only 21 miles long and 7 miles wide. The highest point of land on the entire island is only 35 feet above sea level. Not only had this good sister never been off the island of her birth, she had never even been to that part of her homeland which boasted a 35 foot "mountain." She had a limited perspective indeed.

At the age of 50 she was flown to Kingston, Jamaica, for medical treatment. Harvey met her at the airport. It was night. "What are all those lights doing up in the sky?" she inquired. Harvey had to explain that those were houses . . . and that they

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were not "up in the sky" but built upon the small mountains surrounding Kingston.

It is not my purpose to belittle this good woman who through no fault of her own had never seen a mountain. It is only to point out that in retrospect, "mountaintop" experiences are relative things. A native of Grand Cayman could "blow his mind" by standing on a 40 foot ladder. By visiting Jamaica, he could see the world from mountains that towers some 7,000 feet into the sky.

But even 7,000 foot mountains pale into insignificance for people who live in Colorado. I have a good friend who lives in Colorado Springs. The snow crowned summit of Pike's Peak is beautifully framed by the picture window in his living room. Within five short years of moving there the beauty and wonder of that majestic mountain had lost its magic for him, and he thought no more about it than the citizens of Grand Cayman Island did about a 35 foot mound of earth.

Mountaintop experiences are relative things indeed. I am told that the highest mountain on earth is Mt. Everest which towers some 29,000 feet above sea level. Should you ever be privileged to scale that mountain, your perspective would pale into insignificance by comparison with military pilots who fly routine missions at more than twice that height. Even our astronauts in orbit around our planet must bow their knee to those select few who have walked upon the moon.

At this particular point in time we are tempted to view a perspective from the moon as the "ultimate" pinnacle of human observation. I doubt it! It was indeed a "giant step" for mankind, but only a step. Only another milestone in man's reach for the stars.

There is, of course, a spiritual application to these truths. Our journey to glory does not come in one gigantic leap. We grow progressively from "one degree of glory to another" (II Cor. 3:18).

Each mountaintop we climb seems at the time to be the ultimate pinnacle of life. From that perspective we are prone to look

down on others who stand on lesser levels and wonder why they do not see the things that we see. It is humbling to realize that somewhere there are always others looking down at us and wondering why we do not see the things that they see.

There is a sense in which all of our human experience bears identically the same relationship to our Infinite God.

One times 0 is the same as 1,000 times 0 or 1,000,000 times 0. Thus, the spiritual experience of a ten year old child bears the same relationship to our Infinite God as that of the world's greatest Christian. As a matter of fact, that ten year old child may be the world's greatest Christian.

You are important to God beyond my limited ability to understand, or to explain. Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. God has watched your spiritual development with understanding, interest, and love. He has taken note of your interest in this book and is fully aware of your thoughts and emotions as you read this final page. It is He who summons you into His presence where you will climb new heights, gain new power, and have new perspectives.

Let us, therefore, enter in boldly into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh.